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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Hon. JIM TALENT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, we look to You for hope. Teach us the power of being quiet in Your presence. Shelter us from the noise, tension, sound, and fury that bewilder us. Remind us to be still in order to know Your wisdom. Help us to see that those who love You are never alone, for we are sustained by Your powerful companionship.

May we find our peace in the knowledge that You are always with us. Bless our Senators. Give them the wisdom to trust You without wavering. Make them constantly aware of Your unfailing love. Rescue them from danger and keep their feet from slipping.

We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM TALENT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM TALENT, a Sen-

ator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TALENT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will begin our session with a 1-hour period of morning business. Following morning business, the Senate will have an hour for debate on the motion to proceed to the highway bill. Under the order, after the 60 minutes of debate, the Senate will begin a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the highway legislation.

I do expect that cloture will be invoked and that we would be able to consider the substance of the bill during today's session. Once we are on the bill, Senators can expect amendments. Therefore, additional rollcall votes will occur today.

Today we will also recess from the hour of 12:30 to 2:15 to accommodate the weekly policy luncheons.

In addition to the highway bill, this week we will consider any conference reports that become available. We hope both the budget and the emergency supplemental conference reports will be ready for floor consideration before we conclude our business this week.

Finally, I would announce we have several district judges who should be cleared for Senate action. If votes are

necessary on those nominations, we will be scheduling those votes periodically throughout the week.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be time for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half hour under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half hour under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The Senator from New York.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise under morning business to discuss some events that occurred overnight. Most important, there is a story in today's USA Today, based on a direct interview, that Karl Rove rejected a compromise with Senate Democrats Monday on long-stalled nominations for the Federal judiciary and strongly defended President Bush's choice of John Bolton.

I am going to talk about the first matter.

It is disconcerting and surprising to see an aide to the President, an important aide, tell the Senate how to conduct itself. The Senate has conducted itself by its own rules for decades—for centuries. Those rules, by the design of the Founding Fathers, written into the Constitution, talk about the Senate as being a preserve of minority rights. The Founding Fathers called it the cooling saucer.

It is clear, if you read the Federalist Papers and look at the history of this Republic, that when a Senate minority of 45 rejects 10 out of 215 judges and supports 205 out of 215, that is the very way the Founding Fathers wanted the Senate to behave. After all, one of the very earliest nominations of President

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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